



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Karl Kaechele

Retired Florida Truck Driver Pleads Guilty to Sex Tourism

Sex journals and logs of victims discovered in luggage

A Florida man pleaded guilty on August 13, 2007 after traveling to foreign countries to engage in sex with minors, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Karl Kaechele, 64, was indicted in April 2005 and pleaded guilty to travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct, more commonly known as sex tourism. He admitted to traveling to Cambodia in 2004 and 2005 to knowingly engage in sexual acts with victims ranging between 8 to 17 years of age. Laws against sex tourism were strengthened following the passage of The Protect Act of 2003.

During the guilty plea and previous court proceedings it was disclosed that ICE began

investigating the case when Kaechele arrived at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport from Manila April 2005. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers inquired about Kaechele's travel, that he had been out of the country for 90 days and had traveled to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines.

An examination of Kaechele's possessions by CBP officers and ICE special agents revealed nine packets of photographs, which included images of nude adult Asian females. Also discovered were three large notebook journals containing details of sexual encounters with females, many under the age of 18 and sexual performance enhancing drugs.

ICE Tampa special agents also executed a federal search warrant in May 2005 at Kaechele's residence in St. Petersburg, Fla., for evidence of child pornography and foreign sex-related travel. Seized items included a computer, peripheral equipment, related media, photos and videos.

"Every child should have the right to enjoy their childhood without being exploited due to greed or poverty in their country. Our laws have given us powerful tools to prosecute U.S. citizens who want to participate in this horrible abuse of young people. We will vigilantly pursue anyone who travels in foreign country to patronize the child sex-tourism industry.", stated U.S. Attorney Murphy.

"As this plea illustrates, Americans who travel abroad to prey on the children of other countries should clearly understand that their actions are not beyond the reach of U.S. law," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigation in Detroit. "ICE is committed to protecting those who cannot protect themselves. The victims of child sexual predators are at the top of that list." Moskowitz heads the ICE Office of Investigations for the states of Michigan and Ohio.

This prosecution was facilitated through Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as

identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafecchildhood.gov/."

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.